

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
201 N. Division Avenue
Polo, IL 61064
Church Phone: 815-946-2919
Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net
Website: stmarkspolo.com



2024



June 2024 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois (815) 946-2919

E-mail: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net Website: stmarkspolo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 Worship 10:30 Social Time	3 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose 11:00-12:30 Kidz Café begins today (Every M,W,F)	4	5	6 10:00 Prayer Partners	7	8
9 9:30 Worship 10:30 Social Time	10 No Community Meal this month	11 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	12	13 10:00 Prayer Partners June 13-16 Polo Town & Country Days	14 Synod Assembly at Augustana Flag Day	15 Synod Assembly at Augustana
16 Happy Father's Day! 9:30 Worship 10:30 Social Time 12:30pm Town & Country Days parade	17	18 9:00am Quilters Work Second Hand Rose June 18 th – 22 nd	19 Juneteenth 9:30 Worship & Music Meeting	20 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for July Newsletter	21	22
23 9:30 Worship 10:30 Social Time	24	25	26	27 10:00 Prayer Partners	28	29
30 9:30 Worship 10:30 Social Time						

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Evelyn Meyer, Linda Shank, Mark & Sandy Stahler
June 2	Trish Patterson			<u>Altar Guild: Open</u>
June 9	Merla Brooks			
June 16	Julie Hoak			<u>Head Usher:</u> Mary Calderon
June 23	Linda Gall	Trish Patterson		
June 30	Tracey Anders	Marcia Printz		



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

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Church office: 815-946-2919

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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.*

A volunteer is needed for June altar Guild!

Please let the office know if you can help even for just a week or two

Summer Worship hours begin June 2nd

9:30am Worship

10:30am Social Time

(8:00am in Forreston)



Polo Town & Country Days

June 13-16th

Visit

www.polodays.org

for schedule and sign up to help

June 16th



Congratulations to our St. Mark's Graduates!

8th Grade: Eli Lotz, Samantha Gray, Kendall Boyle, Reese Mekeel and Tian Escobar

High School: Carter Merdian, Ellia Escobar, Alivia Schmidt and Nathaniel Yingling

If we have missed anyone, please let the office know.



2024 Polo Church of the Brethren

Vacation Bible School

July 17th, 18th, & 19th

Dinner for families at 5:00pm

Program 6:00-8:00pm



Join us as we explore God's love through songs, games, snacks, and crafts! This is a FREE EVENT and all children ages 3-5th grade (Just finished) are invited to join us!

Hello St. Mark's Lutheran,

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and welcome to another month held gently in the loving arms of God. It has been a wonderful couple of days here in the middle of May as we approach the coming of June. For now it's Pentecost. Pentecost, that time for celebration, that time we remember the birth of the church. At Pentecost we remember when people from different backgrounds, races, societies, and speaking different languages came together and were made part of an amazing event. At Pentecost the church sprung forth through the **explosive** power of the Holy Spirit in tongues of fire, gifting the people the ability to talk to each other. And in the midst of the confusion, Peter shared with them all about what Jesus had proclaimed: forgiveness, hope, loving for our neighbors and enemies, resurrection and new life through Christ, and that after Jesus ascended again to heaven he would send an Advocate for them all. This time of Pentecost/after Pentecost is important in that we are still encouraged to share the words and promises of Jesus Christ with those around us.

Now that sounds great! How do we do that? I had a conversation recently in which I had detailed the many things I had going on. My friend said "busy with work, family, and friends... sounds like a great life". Well yes I suppose. I've preached on the danger before of letting busyness become the sign of our success or putting it slightly differently that in our society when we are busy it is accounted as successful. But, and perhaps this is like you too, when I am truly busy I long for relaxation/rejuvenation. When I'm not very busy I seek out things to do. When I am stressed and exhausted I seek entertainment, because it feels easier than better forms of stress relief like exercise for example (exercise is truly important for your physical and mental health).

WHAT'S YOUR POINT PASTOR? When my friend extolled the virtue of my great busy life some things were left out. What about me? What about God? Taking care of our own health and wellbeing is important because if we don't our care for ourselves who will? If I'm unhealthy I can't give as much in my work or with my family and friends. And if we don't **MAKE** time for God (bible reading, study, prayer, worship, discussions with friends/family) not only does it diminish our own life (mental, emotional health) it shows the world that our priorities are not of God.

But pastor the church doesn't have a bible study right now! So start one!

I don't really know how or what to pray? Spend some time in your bible, find a devotional that speaks to you... or start a prayer study in which you look at different ways people engage in prayer across the years and even theologies. We can learn a lot from our history and even different traditions.

Be an advocate from/for Christ in the world! Because if we do not who will? No one will do that joyous work for us. Bring God more into your daily life... pray before meals wherever you are. Do not be ashamed of praying out loud in public. Jesus says in Matthew 10:32-33 ³² "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven." Pray with friends who are facing: challenges, defeats, heartbreak, good news, new opportunities. We all need prayers and praying for a friend is honestly awesome. Ask God for forgiveness. You know you did that thing, ask for forgiveness. Ask God for help and guidance. You need it and so do I, don't be ashamed to ask God for guidance. Incorporate the words God Bless you into your daily vernacular (someone helps you out "God Bless You"). Before you know it you'll be blessing everyone.

SO put God first through bible study, devotions, worship, and prayer. Really. Making time for God centered activities is essential. Take care of yourself... exercise, eat right, get enough sleep (you are God's awesome creation you deserve it). Then Make time for family, friends, and do good work. And remember... God loves you, and so do I.

Peace and Blessings to you this Pentecost season,
Pastor Scott

Confirmation Class:

Summer dates TBD

Make sure to check the Team Reach app to stay up to date!

Quilters are looking for help!

The Quilters are looking for people to make quilt tops at home and bring them to church for us to assemble. We have fabric squares you can use. You do not need experience, we can teach you! If interested, contact Joyce Gatz.

Polo Community Meal

There are no meals in June and July. We will resume in August.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Toilet paper, sugar, chicken, eggs

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

April Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
9,352	8,099	1,252



**Polo Community Council of Churches Meeting
Minutes March 26, 2024**

President Jeff Davidson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm on March 26, 2024 at FUMC. Those in attendance were: Sharon Miller, Marilyn Schwartz, Marla Buskohl, Suzanne Stout, Don Hay, Merla Brooks, Josh Brown and Suzanne Sorenson.

Pastor Jeff gave devotions about the Easter story and Jesus on the cross.

Secretaries report was read and approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer Marilyn Schwartz stated the treasury had a current balance of \$3751.01. Bills paid since January were: hams for baskets \$1461.00 and Chamber of Commerce dues of \$110.00. Report was approved.

Second Hand Rose 2023 report was given by Sharon Miller. During 2023, donations were given to several organizations totaling \$2165.44. Sharon stated the winter months were steady with customers but slowing, recently.

Lifeline food pantry- truck delivery from NIFB arrived, but the pantry is in need of supplies and money as the number of families we service is increasing.

Our Table: in April, St. Mark's/St. Mary's and May, Crossroads Church, will be serving. In the months of June and July, no meals will be served.

Vespers: April: COB and May: Faith Discovery

Pennies from Heaven: Kathy Wragg at the Polo Senior Center has been established as coordinator for this service project. Donations are needed!!

Vacation Bible School was discussed and information will be forthcoming.

Community garden was discussed and more info regarding the coordination of the project will be discussed at the next meeting.

New business: Good Friday community church service will be held at Pine Creek Church with a meal at 5:00 and service at 6:00. Thank you to all that are involved in the service. Crossroads church will be hosting a service as well.

Town and Country Days, which is June 12-16 in Polo, was discussed. We voted to give a \$50 donation from PCCC.

Next meeting will be held on May 28, 2024 at Pine Creek Church at 6:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned
Marla buskohl, secretary

Did you lose a ring? A large men's ring was found and turned into the office. Please let us know if you are missing one!



Sympathies to the family and friends of Larry Hackbarth who passed away May 8th.

Sympathies to the family and friends of Jessica Kimpel who passed away May 15th.

Thank you!

~ Thank you to all who helped with preparing, donating and serving at the funeral of Larry Hackbarth.

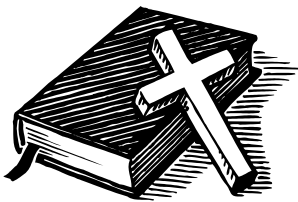
To my dear church family,

I cannot express my gratitude enough for all the support you have given me in the loss of my beloved Lyle. The calls, visits and prayers helped get me through the hardest time of my life. Thank you to Pastor Scott for all he did for my family and I as well. You were always there for us. Another thank you goes to those who helped make, donate, plan and serve the meal. He would've loved the pies!!!

Again, my family and I cannot thank you enough.

Love, Marcia Printz and family

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Kent Anders, Darlene Barnhart, Shelby Hose, Tommy Knipple, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson, Lyle Reap and Laurel Smith. **Those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow and Marian Schnulle. **Those in Military service:** Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

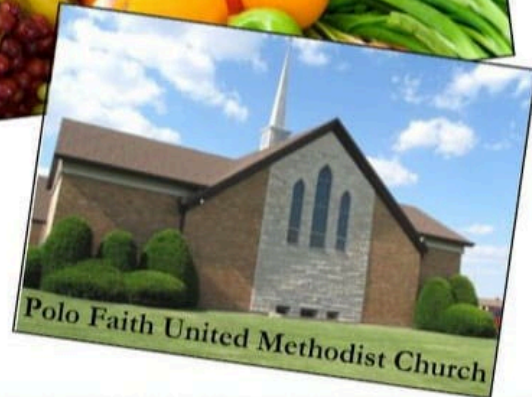
Anniversaries

- 1 Lindsay Mitchell
- 2 Adam Wiegmann
- A J Hinrichs
- 5 Tommy Bardell
- Morgan Karrow
- 6 McKenzie Bailey
- 7 Mary Cimino
- 8 Kennedy Yingling
- 9 Christopher Toms
- 10 Maddox Karrow
- 11 Betty Obendorf
- Tarah Patterson
- Kent Anders
- 13 Emma Bauling
- 14 Karen Gilbert
- Kayleigh Rogers

- 15 Larry Reap
- 16 Nathan Stone
- 17 Julie Haye
- Janet Grobe
- 20 Elijah Lotz
- 21 Greg Cross
- Lisa Miller
- 23 Chad Nelson
- James Shrader
- 25 Cynthia Schryver
- Carrie Grobe
- 26 Nathan Wiegmann
- Rebecca Johnson
- Daphne Bone
- 28 Randy Mitchell
- 30 Tracy Hilleman

- 2 Tony & Judy Karrow
- 3 Raymond & Laura Lopez
- 7 Matt & Cassie Mekeel
- 10 Tom & Carol Suits
- 11 Scott & Sara Thorngren
- 20 Lyle & Melody Reap
- 23 Bryan & Colby Suits

POLO SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM



SUMMER 2024

KIDZ CAFÉ starts June 3 to July 31, 2024


Kidz Café provides free and healthy lunches
for the community of Polo!


WHEN: All summer starting June 3rd
Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday

WHERE: Faith United Methodist Church
702 E. Dixon Street in Polo

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

SHUTTLE: Van pickup available at the Pool Park,
& Polo Public Library or call Wheels of
Faith to arrange for transport at 815.677.8194

 facebook.com/polokidzcafe

For menu and activities check  facebook.



The **diakonia™** Program

2024 – Free Summer Sampler

+

Book Study and Invitation

+ +

6:00-9:00 PM Central Time

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Thursdays – July 11, 18, 25

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Book Study: The World is About to Turn: Mending a Nation's Broken Faith
by Rick Rouse & Paul O. Ingram

Chalice Press: Copyright 2020 – ISBN #978-08272-3721-6

- A. Session I – Introduction, Chapter 1 & 2 – pages 1-27
+ overview of Growing in Faith - Year A
- B. Session II - Chapters 3,4, & 5 – pages 28–69
+ overview of Growing in Faith - Year B
- C. Session III – Chapters 6, 7 & Epilogue – pages 70-105
+ additional offerings 'beyond diakonia.

Facilitator: Rev. Kenn Storck

Note:

The Book Study
will consist of three 3-hour sessions
on Thursdays – July 11,18, 25 – 2024

To participate contact:
Mr. Douglas Wood
dwood1955@hotmail.com

Participants need to purchase the book.