

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

Join us for online Worship  
Sunday mornings at 9:00am!

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**Parking Lot Worship**  
10:30am October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>

**Projected indoor Worship**  
October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**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  
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**2020**



# 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.*

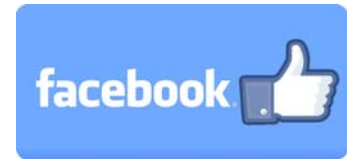
### October Worship News

- St. Mark's will begin at the NEW TIME of 10:30am beginning OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>!
- According to weather sources, October Sunday temperatures are predicted to be about 70 degrees or higher which will allow us to Continue Outdoor Worship.
- October 25<sup>th</sup> is predicted to be chilly so our 1<sup>st</sup> indoor worship will be at 10:30am that Sunday. **OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup> will be our first indoor worship unless the county pandemic numbers go up.**
- We will continue on-line worship every Sunday for those who prefer or need to worship that way.

### Join us for Worship on Facebook!

Sunday mornings at 9:00am

All you need to do is log on to St. Mark's Lutheran Church Polo Illinois Facebook page [www.facebook.com/stmarkspolo](http://www.facebook.com/stmarkspolo). The website is open to the public.



Pastor Terrie will be doing a shortened message with a short sermon and then **offering communion for the community the first Sunday of the month only**. Have a piece of bread or a cracker handy along with juice or wine and we will share the Lord's Supper together virtually.

**Pastor will continue to email worship on Saturday evening for Worship at home.**

### **Parking Lot Worship continues Weather permitting**

**October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>**

**New Time → 10:30am!**

Every Sunday we will continue to bring our chairs, wear our masks and social distance. Communion with individual packages will continue each week. Come and enjoy the music Cheryl Goeking provides and special music on occasion. These are shorter services and will include a Children's Message. Offerings, donations for the Food Pantry (checks to Polo Lifeline), Neighbors in Need and the CROP walk (checks are made to St. Mark's) are welcome.



Here are the guidelines to follow:  
**Bring your own lawn chair. You MUST wear a mask**  
**Masks and 6 foot distance required**  
**Do NOT come if you are not feeling well**

Thank you to our task force for these decisions. St. Mark's is following the Ogle County Health Department, State guidelines and ELCA guidelines.

St. Mark's will follow the Illinois Governor's guidelines during the pandemic. A decision was made to allow groups (church and community) to meet in St. Mark's building as long as they **follow current governor's guidelines**, failure to abide by guidelines results in loss of privilege.

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Pastor's Thoughts...

As I was thinking about how to share words of encouragement and comfort in a time such as this, Psalm 62 came into my mind. This psalm must have been written in a time of a major oppression of the Jewish people. What could it mean to find rest like this in a world such as ours? Every day more and more people are facing the catastrophe of extreme weather. The news cycle is increasingly driven by chaos. The pandemic that seems to be returning in waves continues to cause suffering and disorder with no end in sight, and there is no guarantee of the future in an economy designed to protect the rich and powerful at the expense of the poor and those subsisting at the margins of society. So I invite you to read and pray in this psalm. I pray that the Psalm give you comfort and encouragement for such a time as this.

Autumn Blessings, Pastor Terrie

Psalm 62

<sup>1</sup>For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from him comes my salvation.  
<sup>2</sup>He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.  
<sup>3</sup>How long will you assail a person,  
will you batter your victim, all of you,  
as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?  
<sup>4</sup>Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence.  
They take pleasure in falsehood;  
they bless with their mouths,  
but inwardly they curse.

<sup>5</sup>For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from him.  
<sup>6</sup>He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.  
<sup>7</sup>On God rests my deliverance and my honor;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.  
<sup>8</sup>Trust in him at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before him;  
God is a refuge for us.

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August Financial Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
9,639	6,273	3,366

2020 Year to date Financial Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
63,165	68,942	-5,777

## COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services

Some of the Illinois Department of Health guidelines *Last Updated: 7/21/2020*

Congregate outdoors Where weather and facilities permit, it is safer for worship and other activity to occur outdoors rather than indoors. Some best practices include: Congregants who are living together sit together, at least 6 feet apart from other congregants and groups. Wear face coverings. Refrain from singing and group recitation, which significantly increases the risk of transmission of the virus by projecting respiratory droplets. Consider pre-recorded music or other alternatives. If continuing with singing and group recitation, increase social distance to at least 10 feet between groups and ensure face coverings are worn. Restrooms should be regularly sanitized and have sufficient soap and hand sanitizer. Follow applicable guidance below for in-person activities. Congregate in groups of less than 50 people indoors. For in-person indoor services, the safest choice is to limit the number of people during a given service. Consider holding multiple services for multiple small groups, limiting to 50 in-person services to special events (e.g., weddings, funerals, baptisms), or limiting in-person activities to private prayer and worship. Some best practices include:

- Congregants who are living together sit together, at least 6 feet apart from other groups.
- Wear face coverings.
- Especially indoors, refrain from singing and group recitation, which significantly increases the risk of transmission of the virus by projecting respiratory droplets. Consider pre-recorded music or other alternatives.
- If continuing with singing and group recitation, increase social distance to at least 10 feet between groups and ensure face coverings are worn.
- Restrooms should be regularly sanitized and have sufficient soap and hand sanitizer. Follow applicable guidance below for in-person activities.

### Singing and group recitation

Strongly consider discontinuing singing (and post signage discouraging singing), group recitation, and other practices and performances where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets. Modify practices by calling for silent recitation, using prerecorded music, or having a single singer in a separate area with speaker transmission. If these practices cannot be discontinued, strictly limit the number people reciting or singing, ensure physical distancing significantly greater than 6 feet between people, and consider installing plexiglass to provide physical barriers between people, or opt to celebrate these practices outside with significant physical distancing and other precautions. Use microphones to discourage loud speaking and provide a barrier (plexiglass) for the speaker.

### Food and beverages

Discontinue offering food and beverages. Do not hold potlucks or buffet-style meals or events that increase the risk of cross contamination. If food and beverages must be served, provide items in single-serve containers (disposable containers whenever possible), and ensure congregants or others who are living together are seated together and more than 6 feet apart from others. Employees or volunteers serving food should wash hands frequently and wear disposable gloves and face coverings.

# CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Thank you for all those who contributed to the C.R.O.P. fundraiser for Hunger at home and in the world. St. Mark's will be sending about \$250 to help those in need.

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

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**Currently there a few things happening at St. Mark's:**

- Prayer Partners meet on Thursday mornings with their own folding chairs and masks to pray. They meet in the parking lot shade at 10:00am and socially distance while praying for our congregation and the world.
- Second Hand Rose has opened for business and Carol's Christmas Cupboard is also open.

*Children and adult Sunday school is on hold at this time.*

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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)  
Pinecrest 414 S. Wesley Ave, Mt. Morris 60154 ( Barb Bowen)  
Provena Center 1372 Woodside Dr., Freeport 61032 ( Hazel Pontnak)  
Regency Healthcare 612 West. St. Sterling 61081 (Tammy Karrow and Trudy Karrow)  
Wesley Willows Rockford 61103 (Sibyl Acker)



Here is a list of residents that would benefit from receiving cards at the Polo Rehab Center: Nancy B., Cecelia C., Joy F., Marjorie G., Shirley H., Grace M., and Betty W.

- 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**



## FREE FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Check out the link below for Sparkhouse Family Sunday School for the bible lesson for music, activities and downloadable sheets to inspire faith in your home with your children! Scroll down for the lesson video and activities.

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school/>

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### Council Highlights from the September Church Council Meeting

**Treasurer’s Report:** Lori Christen accepted the treasurer position and a contract has been completed. Year to date deficit stands at \$5,777. Other business discussed was the requirement of annual financial audit in accordance with our church constitution. An estimate of \$75 was secured from the First State Bank to audit the church financial records. It was approved to have this done at the end of 2020.

**Pastor’s Report and Worship Plans:** Notes have been sent to members in care facilities. The Health and Safety task force met via email and proposed that we meet outdoors as long as possible. Disinfectant and a hand sanitizer dispenser and gel have been ordered. We have 5 spray bottles also. Volunteers are needed to prepare the church building for worship. Special thank you to Amy and Cliff Bardell for volunteering for the month of September. Merla volunteered for October, Cindy will be able to assist with a couple of weeks in November. Recommended cleaning guidelines will be discussed at the next Health and Safety task force and then subsequently to be discussed at the October Council meeting. Cheryl Goeking has been great about special music this summer. We are looking for soloists and special music for church services. A suggestion was provided to consider an online video for special music if soloists are not possible. Outdoor service attendance has been averaging 35.

**Worship & Hospitality and Global Mission:** The Hospitality and Mission teams continue periodic phone calls to connect with the church family. Local and Global Mission continue to collect food and money for the local pantry. The neighbors in need fund is getting very low. This month we are focusing on CROP walk donations.

**Education:** Confirmation is on hold until January. No plans for Sunday school at this time. We are waiting to see how things work out for our area schools and what our numbers are. Adult classes are also on hold.

**Polo Council of Churches:** Next meeting is scheduled for November 24<sup>th</sup> at Crossroads Community.

**Fellowship:** The Roast Beef dinner remains on hold.

**Property:** The outside kitchen door has fallen apart, with the handle being broken and the bottom section has been kicked in. Discussion about having a new door installed, Cindy volunteered to look into. It was approved to allow Cindy to make the necessary contact to replace the storm door with a maximum budget of \$450 for door and labor.

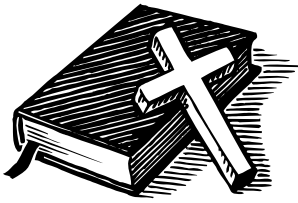
**Old Business:** Synod Mission Support. St. Mark’s pledged \$5,350 towards the Synod’s Mission Support program for 2020. Year to date the church has contributed \$1,737 and taken in \$2,300 congregational contributions toward Synod Mission Support. It was approved to pay \$600 at this time. Due to these unprecedented times, the church council will discuss future contributions monthly.

**New Business:** World Hunger Day (October 16<sup>th</sup>) has been slated by the Synod. There is a video to share for the Lutheran World Hunger program. Sara volunteered to be the hunger ambassador.



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)





**Prayers for Healing:** Karla Gipe and Brad Shippert **Prayers for those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Barb Bowen, Lois Garman, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Hazel Pontnak, Jeanne Scholl and Linda Scholl. **Prayers for those in military service:** Logan Albrecht, JJ Bardell, Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop

### October Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

- 1 Maycie Powell
- 2 Linda Scholl
- 3 Betty Hook
- 4 Brenner Bushman  
Miles Bushman  
Lexi Christen  
Aubrey Richardson
- 5 Lydia Kelly  
Marcia Printz  
Randal Gabaldon II
- 6 Cassandra Hinrichs
- 7 Brad Long  
Julie Merdian
- 10 Michelle Gunder
- 11 Pam White
- 12 Renae Shrader  
Karen Reap  
Marian Schnulle  
Westley Bauling  
Sarah Wiegmann
- 14 Trevin Woodin  
Barret Clothier

- 15 Richard Hose
- 16 Kortney Heckman
- 17 Carolyn Altenburg
- 18 Don Nelson
- 19 Eldon Engel
- 20 Michael Hecathorn
- 22 Shirley Clayton  
Karen Olsen  
Andy Hinrichs  
Chloe Bartelt
- 23 Mason Peterson
- 24 Jeff Meyer  
Suzanne Sorenson  
Ian Slager
- 26 Margery Immel
- 27 Samantha Hinrichs  
Tracey Anders  
Jonathan Heath
- 28 Colten Meyer  
Shauna Gipe
- 29 Julie Albrecht  
Kimberly Barnhart

#### Anniversaries

- 6 Lorin & Joyce Gatz
- 11 John & Pam White
- 12 Joe & Amy Merdian
- 19 Scott & Bekka Powell
- 20 Ed & Karen Olsen
- 23 Ryan & Robyn Nelson
- 26 Amanda & John Carroll
- 27 Oran & Terrie Wilder



THE PRIEST CARVES OUT SACRED SPACE AT HOME IN ORDER TO RECORD LITURGY FOR SUNDAY.



