

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church Phone: 815-946-2919

Email: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net

Website: stmarkspolo.com

Reverend Terrie Wilder

Pastor's Phone: 815-677-3443

Email: tfwilder@gmail.com



2022

Lent April 6th 6:00pm

Maundy Thursday 4/14 6:00pm

Good Friday 4/15 6:00pm

Easter Resurrection Sunday

10:00am *NEW TIME*



April 2022 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois 815/946-2919

E-mail: stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net Pastor Terrie Wilder: 815/677-3443 Website: stmarkspolo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00am Sunday School for Children and Adults 9:00am Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30am Worship Easter Lily orders due	4 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00am Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	5 Pastor Text Study Work Second Hand Rose April 5-9	6 6:00pm Lent Worship	7 9:00 Worship & Hospitality Meeting 10:00 Prayer Partners 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	8 AA Meeting	9 9:00am Cleanup day at St. Mark's
10 Palm Sunday 9:00am Sunday School for Children and Adults 9:00am Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30am Worship Final day of Lenten Food Drive 5:00pm Candlelight Vigil for Ukraine	11 Pastor's Sabbath	12 Pastor Text Study	13	14 10:00 Prayer Partners 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	15 6:00pm Good Friday Worship	16 9:00am Decorate church for Easter
17 Easter Resurrection Sunday 10:00 Worship *NEW TIME* Children play bells at worship	18 Pastor's Sabbath	19 Pastor Text Study 9:00am Quilters	20 Deadline to submit articles for May Newsletter	21 10:00 Prayer Partners	22	23
24 9:00am Sunday School for Children and Adults 10:00 Social Time 10:30am Worship Potluck after Worship for Pastor	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26 Pastor Text Study	27	28 10:00 Prayer Partners	29	30

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>April Tellers:</u> Evelyn Meyer, Linda Shank, Mark & Sandy Stahler	<u>Altar Guild:</u> Tracey Anders
April 3	Tracey Anders	Steve & Suzanne Sorenson		
April 10	Hailey Walker	Craig & Cindy Bauling		Head Usher – Cindy Schryver
April 17	Beth Wiegmann	Easter Lilies		
April 24	Kent Anders	Josh & Lori Christen		



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: 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.*



Welcome by baptism,
Claire Bartelt (daughter of Sydney & Andy Bartelt)
and
Anderson Carroll (son of Amanda & John Carroll)

Welcome new member by instruction, John Carroll

Welcome by Confirmation, Chelsea Schryver



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Wednesday, April 6th
6:00pm Lenten Worship (no supper)

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series Theme: Making Change
Overview

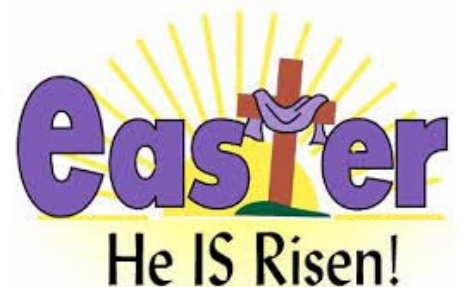
April 6 **Week of Lent 5: Change of Plans**

God's ways are not our own. We expect a conquering king and hero, but Jesus instead leads us down the road to Jerusalem and humbles himself on the cross. God changes our plans and replaces them with a love broader and deeper than anything we could imagine.



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April Schedule

- Saturday, April 9th - Cleanup day at St. Mark's 9:00am
- Thursday, April 14th - 6:00pm Maundy Thursday
- Friday, April 15th - 6:00pm at St. Mark's Good Friday
- Sunday, April 17th - 10:00am ***NEW TIME*** Easter Resurrection Worship (no classes)



Sunday School Bell Choir

Children are now rehearsing for the Bell Choir to play in church on Easter morning at the 10:00am worship.

Pastor's thoughts....

St. Mark's Siblings in Christ,

By now all of you have heard that I will be retiring as St. Mark's pastor at the end of this month after 15 years of service. This will be my last "Pastor's Thoughts" for the newsletter and so I would like to make these thoughts more personal.

I was a confirmation student when I felt the call to lead in the church. For many years I was able to creatively avoid the call. A widow at age 50, I began the journey to seminary and God made the pathway straight. I was blessed to spend 3 years as a student before ordination at St. Mark's. I had no idea how to lead a worship and no preaching classes, so thank you for supporting me as I stumbled through the learning process. Together we designed worship traditions that we pray give glory to God.

As we go down memory lane about our history together as a community in Christ, it is important to be reminded that your new leader(s) will also need your help again in leading the people of St. Mark's. I pray that you will trust in the Lord to raise up new leader(s) for the good of God's people. Leader(s) is plural because you will most likely have an interim pastor assigned while preparing to call a new pastor.

Every church community is a unique family. Believe me when I tell you there are hundreds of books regarding family systems theories of church personalities, and I have read my share. Even with all of that spiritual psychology, no one is prepared when the family is divided or unsettled. Together we have weathered our fair share of disagreements and I pray that St. Mark's has become stronger because of it.

St. Mark's will always be a special place to Oran and me as we met and were married here. We have made so many wonderful friends. Working in community with you, we have been able to practice our faith by helping many of God's people with various needs.

My prayer for you is that you will choose to be a community that focuses on your abundance. So often church communities live in fear and scarcity of what the church used to be. You will now need to decide if you are going to grieve the big church you used to be, or, if you will embrace a newer smaller "thriving" church that God is guiding you to be. I pray that you choose to thrive no matter what the size of the congregation. Trust the Holy Spirit because God is always doing a new thing.

Thank you for allowing me to journey with you in a variety of personal challenges, and celebrate with you the joys of baptisms, first communions, new members, confirmations, and weekly Holy Communion.

Thank you for allowing me to journey with you in times of strife, home visitations, nursing care, hospital visits, and the grief of family death and funeral proceedings.

Oran and I will miss you and will continue to pray for you.

Blessings of abundance, Pastor Terrie Wilder

Romans 15:5-7

⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.



The Polo Council of Churches is planning a Candlelight Vigil to pray for Ukraine on Palm Sunday, April 10th, at 5:00pm. More information will be coming on where this will be held in Polo.

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

March 10th, 2022

St. Mark's Siblings in Christ,

After much prayer and deliberation, this letter is to inform you that I am resigning from serving as the Word and Sacrament minister of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

This will be effective May 1st. 2022. The last Sunday that I will lead worship will be April 24th, the week following Easter/Resurrection.

I have been praying that the Holy Spirit will send new leadership to this faithful, devoted, and loving congregation. I will continue to pray for that.

Bishop Clements and the Synod staff are aware of this change. I am confident that the Synod and its representatives will do their best to walk with you in this time of transition.

This was a difficult decision because you have been like family to Oran and me. After 15 years, I will join my husband in retirement. We have laughed and cried together often and worked together to be the body of Christ in Word and deed.

Thank you for your support and encouragement when I was a student and later when I was ordained and called to serve St. Mark's.

Please pray for us as we will continue to pray for you.

In service to Our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, Pastor Terrie Wilder



Potluck Reception for Pastor Terrie April 24th

We will be having a potluck after Pastor Terrie's last worship service on April 24th. Join us in wishing her a happy retirement and thank you for many great years with us at St. Mark's. More details coming soon!

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St. Mark's needs 1 more attendee for the Synod Assembly to vote for a new bishop!
April 15th is the deadline of Synod Assembly Registration.

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Wanted

Someone with the technology capability and knowledge to voluntarily live stream worship from St. Mark's. It is a commitment to attend worship and do this. Perhaps not every week however there would need to be a schedule.

If anyone is interested in helping with this, please contact Pastor Terrie at 815-677-3443.

February Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
6,605	10,763	-4,159

Attention Members of St. Mark's!

We are excited to tell you about St. Mark's Mission Team's upcoming projects. As Covid concerns have been lessening, we have been moved to get reactivated in 2022. A Thrivent Action Team Grant has been applied for \$250 seed money for our project "Reach out/Stock up Polo Lifeline Food Pantry." The condition of this grant is that it must be matched by us. We need to raise \$250 that will be combined to the grant so we can purchase the items of greatest needs:

1. Toilet paper
2. Spaghetti Sauce and pasta
3. Cheese
4. Sugar, flour and other baking necessities

So lets all dig into our wallets and pocket books so that we can present these products to the pantry before Palm Sunday – the start of Holy Week. That's only a couple of weeks away!!



Your donations can be dropped off or mailed – please designate on check or envelope (Reach out/Stock up Polo Lifeline Food Pantry).

Jesus sacrificed for us; let us make a sacrifice to help those less fortunate in our community!

Another upcoming project is the annual "Shoes for all Ages" for Another Child Foundation that serves Point of Hope Center, a school community in Romania that we sponsor. ACF has recently adopted a 2nd children's development center in Honduras. Thanks Be to God for the success of these projects! You will see the large box to be filled with NEW shoes only in the fellowship hall. We will also be collecting diapers, soccer balls, and basketballs, for Romanian orphanages.



And finally FYI: This years' CWS – Ogle County CROP Walk is being planned. St. Mark's will host the event to be held on September 25th, stepping off from St. Mark's parking lot at 2:00pm. Time to start training for either a 1 mile or 5 mile walk around Polo.



St. Mark's is looking for someone to learn about filling humidifiers with Lorin Gatz. Lorin faithfully comes into the church during fall, winter, and spring to make sure the humidifiers are working for care and maintenance of the organ. He would like to train a backup person.

Thank you Lorin!

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Ketchup, mandarin oranges, pineapple, sugar, cookies, spaghetti sauce, beets, chili beans, diapers, cat food dry, stewed tomatoes, rotini or penne pasta, scalloped potatoes, juice boxes, crackers, white bread, evaporated milk, baking soda, baking powder, OTC pain reliever adult and children, deodorant, paper towels. Items can be dropped off at St. Mark's. There is a grocery cart in the fellowship hall.

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)
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

Church needs:

St. Mark's office is looking for a fireproof file cabinet or large safe to store the historical archives of the church. Please contact the office or Lori if you have one to donate or would like to purchase one. Keep an eye out at garage sales & auctions!

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

St. Mark's Council Meeting Minutes **Thursday March 10th, 2022**, Video Conference

Attending Members: Tracey Anders, Craig Bauling, Merla Brooks, Lisa Hinrichs, Terry Jenkins, Cindy Schryver, Hailey Walker, and Pastor Terrie Wilder

Absent Members: All in attendance.

A devotion was given by Pastor Terrie.

A quorum was declared by Merla Brookes: Vice President

Secretary's Report: Minutes from February's Meeting were reviewed and approved by voice vote.

Correspondence: A thank you from the ELCA for our \$205 donation to Lutheran Disaster Response. The money came from a special collection for the tornado disaster.

Treasures Financial Report: Financial Reports submitted by Lori Christen were discussed. A motion was made to pay our organist \$200 for her Lenten service music. This was approved via voice vote. The reports were approved by voice vote.

Pastor's Report: Pastor announced her retirement from St Mark's as of May 1, 2022. The synod has been informed as have a number of the council members. Pastor has sent a letter to all the congregation members. An announcement will be made on Sunday, March 13th at our church service. Merla suggested a pot luck in late April. Many congratulations were given.

Our next council meeting will be in person on April 7th at 7pm. A synod representative will be here to discuss the call process and answer any questions.

Worship: Pastor reported: Ash Wednesday had 28 attendance and the weekly worship has also been gaining attendance each week. Great blessings! During Lent we are looking at topics of change and how God is always in the change. Children are practicing bells and Beth Wiegmann may be our cantor for Easter. New candles for the candelabra have arrived and will also be presented Easter Morning.

McNamara organ services have sent a letter of estimate for the needed organ repairs. It states 2-3 days of work including the removal of pipes to get back to the chamber where the problem is. Volunteers will be needed to help remove some pipes. Financial estimate is approximately \$1500 to \$2200. This is not urgent but necessary. Cheryl suggested doing it this fall. Discussion was held on having a "building fund special fund raiser". The repair topic was tabled until a future meeting.

Worship and Music Committee: The Worship and Music committee's next meeting is Tuesday May 24th at 3:00pm.

Hospitality Committee: A baptism will be held on March 13th and a confirmation celebration on March 20. Cards for Chelsea Schryver are requested. Cake for both baptisms and confirmation will be provided. The next meeting of the committee will address decorating for the Easter season.

Educational Committee: Sunday school attendance is up. Tracey is doing well with the adult study group. The confirmation group is struggling in attendance, will finish the Old Testament studies soon, and review on Palm Sunday for this year.

Global mission: Members are encouraging donations to the Polo Food Pantry for Lent. The church bulletin will include this Food Pantry needs. Collections of goods will be delivered the Tuesday after Palm Sunday.

Memorial Committee: no report

Property Committee: The committee chair reports: A deep cleaning for the church is needed prior to our Easter services. No date has been set., so discussion on an appropriate date were held. Easter is the 17th of April with decorations being done on the 16th of April. April 9th was agreed upon.

We were inspected by the Polo Fire and Emergency Services organization in February. They suggested we provide a method for access to the church for their teams. One suggestion that was discussed during the inspection was the installation of a Knox box (key holding box). More details regarding pricing and mounting need to be accumulated and shared at the next council meeting.

We have still not received a quote from the last electrician who discussed our requirements. Craig to call the last electrician about a quote.

John Engle is offering boiling training to anyone interested in learning about the boiler and it's maintenance. We discussed the maintenance for humidifiers as well. The council should be looking for people to learn and support maintenance activities.

The church is in need of a new toilet seat in the downstairs men's bathroom. Confusion on whether it's mens or womens bathroom. Craig will look at both bathrooms and repair/replace any defective.

Polo Council of Churches: A next meeting is March 22nd at Faith United Methodist.

Constitution: A special congregational meeting was held March 6th for a final vote of the constitution and its changes. The constitution was voted for approval. The next constitution review is required to begin in Dec 2022 for approval at our 2023 January Congregational Meeting.

Old Business:

New Business: 2022 Crop Walk will be hosted by St Marks Lutheran Church. It will be held on 25th September 2022. Tracey Anders is heading this up.

We discussed the lack of the service presentation via the big screen TV. This has impacted Chelsea Schryver greatly and is clearly missed by many others. Kent Anders managed this process in the past, but health issues prevent him from continuing. Lisa H will look into alternatives and discuss with Pastor Terrie.

Other Business:

Closing Prayer by Pastor Terrie

Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn.

Next meeting: Thursday April 7th, 7:00pm

(1st Thursday of the month because of Maundy Thursday) in person at the church)

Respectfully submitted by Craig Bauling

Minutes from March 6th Congregational Meeting

Meeting for the second vote to confirm the new Bylaws/Constitution was called to order at 11:32 by President Lisa Hinrichs. Vice President Merla Brooks confirmed that we had a quorum.

The two changes that were made as a result of the Annual Meeting in January were reviewed. There was no discussion.

Cliff Bardell made a motion to accept the Bylaws/Constitution as submitted, the motion was seconded by Beth Wiegmann. Motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Notes from the Polo Council of Churches meeting March 22nd

The Polo Council of Churches held a very productive meeting March 22nd at Faith United Methodist Church. There were 15 people present from many area churches discussing what the council could do to bring the love of Christ to the community. Merla Brooks, Suzanne Sorenson and Pasto attended.

Listed are some of the ideas, decisions, and announcements:

- Brookville Methodist church will host and Easter Egg hunt on Palm Sunday
- Pastor Suzanne from Pine Creek Christian Church was introduced to everyone.
- A decision to give the final \$1200 to the Unitarian effort hosting a family from Afghanistan was approved. This young family is working to become self-sustaining and hopes to settle in the United States. This is a long complicated and expensive endeavor, and we support them with prayer and needs.
- In Honduras schools are beginning to open up and there is hope to some restoration
- PCCC will begin community meals in the fall at the Methodist Church.
- Kidz Café will begin in June on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Methodist Church
- Vacation Bible school will also meet in the first week of June on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Methodist Church during the time of Kidz Café. Volunteers are needed to help. Contact the Brethren Church to help.
- Sunday Vespers can begin at Polo Rehab whenever someone would like to lead. Masks required.
- Community Garden at the Brethren church begins in May and also needs volunteers.
- A Candlelight Vigil will be held for Ukraine. A committee will meet soon. A park in central Polo is though to be ideal. The proposed date is April 10th, Palm Sunday at 5:00pm. St. Mark’s Lutheran will donate the candles. Community leaders will be invited.

The next meeting is May 24th at Faith Discovery Church at 7:00pm

Respectfully, Pastor Terrie



Thank you!

~ Thank you for all the soup donated to the Polo Food Pantry for Souper Bowl Sunday.

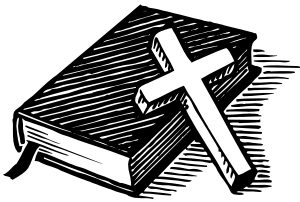
~ Thank you to Charlie and Linda Gall for donations of paper and cost of celebrate inserts.

~ Thank you to John and Amanda Carroll for donating the cost of bulletin covers.

“Thank you to all my family and friends for the cards, well wishes and kind Facebook greetings for my birthday.” ~ Beulah Nelson

“Jerry and Priscilla Schwingel want to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, prayers and kind messages. We are so appreciative.”

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Tina Pierce and Timothy Toms

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

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

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 1 Amanda O'Brien
- Brayden Hays
- 4 Penny Heckman
- Amie Scholl
- Lindsey O'Brien
- 5 Jerry Schwingel
- 7 Priscilla Schwingel
- 8 Phyllis Dyer
- 9 Alivia Schmidt
- Andrew Albrecht
- 11 Samantha Gray
- 12 Nevaeh Hall
- 13 Gregor Armstrong
- 14 Logan Nelson

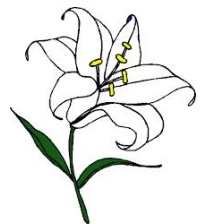
- 15 Justin Brown
- 16 Erica Scholl
- Maddox Peterson
- 17 Tom Hoak
- 19 Charles Bailey
- 21 Tristin Woodin
- 22 Mackenzie Martz
- Mallory McPherson
- 23 Vincent Ambeau
- 26 Sibyl Acker
- 27 Eric Boren
- Dan Powell
- 29 Lyle Printz
- 30 Troy Boothe
- Tian Escobar

- 4 Jerry & Linda Hose
- 11 Larry & Elsie Hackbarth
- 19 Willard & Evelyn Meyer

Easter Lily Order Form

Easter Lilies will be available this year for \$14.00. If you would like to purchase one, **please return this form by April 3rd.**

Please attach your cash or check **payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church** to this form and put them in the offering plate or in the secretary's mailbox.



GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

OR

IN HONOR OF: _____

(Name of living person(s) or special occasion)

Are you ordering through the church: YES / NO

If you are bringing a lily but you are not ordering it through the church, please fill out this form if you would like your information in the bulletin.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE

MARCH 2022

ELCA.org/disaster

On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Airports are now shut, and few railway lines are operational. Civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Hundreds of thousands of people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter, basic necessities and pastoral care.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

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 Yes, I want to help!

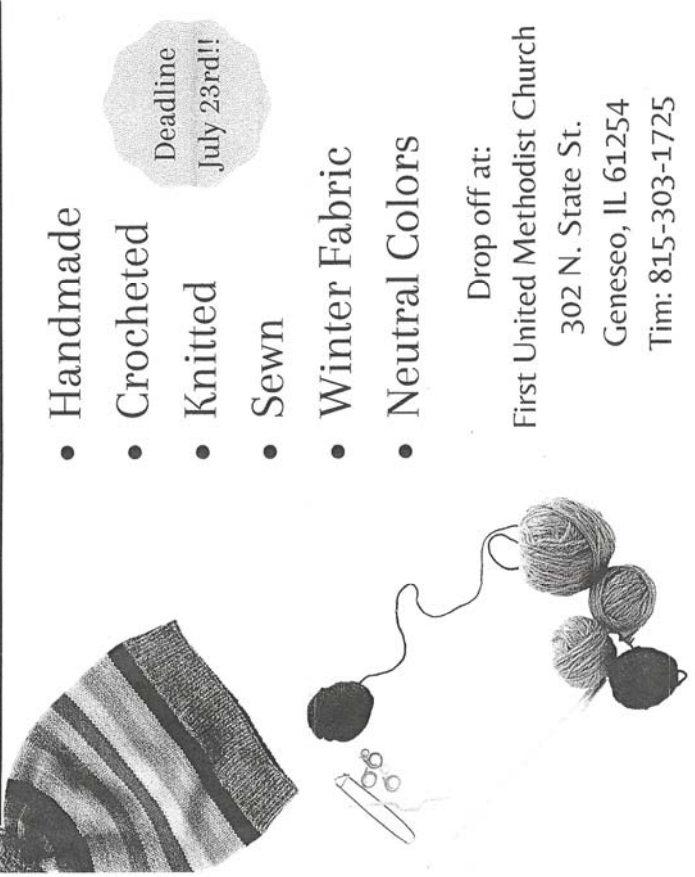
Lutheran Disaster Response: Eastern Europe Crisis Response \$ _____ IDG0103
 Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most \$ _____ DDG0010

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____
 Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" or "Where needed most" on your check's memo line.

 **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
 God's work. Our hands.

HANDMADE SCARVES AND HATS



- Handmade
- Crocheted
- Knitted
- Sewn
- Winter Fabric
- Neutral Colors

Deadline
 July 23rd!!

Drop off at:

First United Methodist Church
 302 N. State St.
 Geneseo, IL 61254
 Tim: 815-303-1725

Benefits
 THE KIDS & STAFF
 AT POINT OF HOPE

Contact Pastor Vicki at 815-973-2819 if you need items to be picked up.



#SHARETHEWARMTH 