

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



December

2024



December 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 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	2 Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	3	4	5 10:00 Prayer Partners	6	7
8 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	9 No Community Meal this month	10 Work Second Hand Rose December 10– 14 th	11 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's	12 10:00 Prayer Partners	13	14
15 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	16	17 9:00am Quilters	18	19 10:00 Prayer Partners	20	21
22 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship	23	24 4:00pm Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas!	26 10:00 Prayer Partners Deadline to submit articles for January Newsletter	27	28
29 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Social Time 10:30 Worship – Favorite Hymn Sing	30	31	Happy New Year!			

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Tellers:</u> Barb Grobe, Kathy Mitchell, Joan Rienstra			
December 1	Tracey Anders	Julie Hoak				
December 8	Trish Patterson	Cheryl Goeking	<u>Altar Guild:</u> Tracey Anders			
December 15	Sandy Stahler	Merla Brooks	<u>Head Usher:</u> OPEN			
December 22	Kent Anders	Poinsettias				
December 24 4:00pm Christmas Eve	Cliff Bardell	Poinsettias				
December 29	Julie Hoak	Poinsettias				



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LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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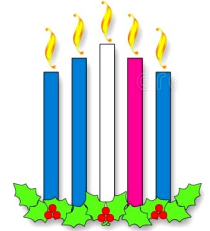
Pastor Scott Ralston

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.*

The Four Advent Candles

The candles on an Advent wreath symbolize the Christian virtues of hope, peace, joy, and love, and represent the four weeks of Advent:

- **First candle:** The Prophecy Candle, which is blue, represents hope and the anticipation of Christ's coming
- **Second candle:** The Bethlehem Candle, which is blue, symbolizes peace and preparation
- **Third candle:** The Shepherd's Candle, which is pink, represents the joy felt at the birth of Christ
- **Fourth candle:** The Angel's Candle, which is blue, represents love



Advent wreaths also often have a white candle in the center, called the Christ candle, which symbolizes the birth of Jesus and the arrival of Christmas. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve. The circular shape of the wreath represents God's infinite love and eternity, while the evergreen leaves symbolize the hope of eternal life.



Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24th 4:00pm

Sunday, December 29th Hymn Sing during worship

Think ahead of your favorite hymns from our hymnal. We will take requests throughout worship



Hello St. Mark's Lutheran,

Welcome to another month held gently in the loving arms of God. Beloved, Advent is right around the corner and by the time you read this Thanksgiving will be as well. Thinking about Thanksgiving brings to mind all those family gathering over the years: all that turkey, stuffing, green beans, sweet potatoes, and all those desserts... this time of year is so full of activity and family. It is a good time to remember all those people, things, and blessings for which we are thankful.

As we think on all that for which we give thanks, remember especially to thank the one from whom all has come. One psalm I really enjoy for this time of year is Psalm 95: "O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods." **Reminding us to celebrate and give thanks to God for all we have been given.** 2 Cor 9 is another great verse talking about thanksgiving, "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." **Reminding us to be generous, give back from all that which we have been given, and that when we do we are thanking God for all we have received with action as well as words.**

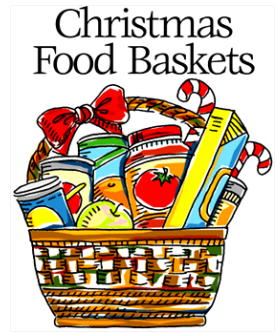
We are a very blessed people... blessed and called to make a difference in the world that God created. We are called not only to serve the people around us but to also share with everyone the powerful message of God's love for the world. So as we enter into Advent, let us remember all that we have to be thankful for as we look forward to the greatest gift, the greatest love the world has ever been given, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. May your Advent and Christmas be blessed, and may feel yourself held always in the loving arms of God!

Peace and Blessings to you and yours,
Pastor Scott

Christmas Basket donations

We will continue to collect monetary donations for purchasing Christmas food baskets through the Polo Food Pantry. Donations of any amounts can be made. (Checks can be made to St. Mark's and we will send in our combined donation.)

Thank you to all who have donated so far!



Annual Reports due!

If you are part of a committee, please make sure to have your annual report submitted to the office to be included in the annual report/meeting in January.

2025 Offering envelopes are ready for pickup. If you did not receive a box and would like one, let Lori know and she will get you one.

Polo Community Meal

There is no community meal in December. The next meal will be held January 13th at Faith United Methodist 5:00-6:30pm.

Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:

Sugar, soap, toilet paper, any frozen food, and cash donations.



Blessing of the Quilts

On November 3rd, we had The Blessing of the Quilts at St. Mark's. These wonderful and very talented ladies made a total of 48 quilts this year! 12 were donated to HOPE of Ogle County, 12 to Focus House, and 24 to Anneville Kentucky Mission. Pictured are: Marcia Printz, Marilyn Nelson, Linda Gall, Merla Brooks, Cathy Mitchell, Carol Garkey, Joyce Gatz, and Joyce Folkers. What a fabulous group of hard working and treasured souls. We are so blessed to have them at St. Mark's! Thank you ladies for sharing your talents and blessings with others!!!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
October 9, 2024 7pm

Members: Steve Sorenson, Cindy Schryver, Renee Boyle, Mary Calderon,
Trish Patterson, Pastor Scott

Attendance and Quorum: Yes

Opening Prayer – Pastor Scott

Secretary's Report – Renee makes a motion to approve. Mary 2nd.

Treasurer's Report – Renee makes a motion for the rental money from parsonage to remain in operating account for the next couple of months. Trish 2nd.

Pastor makes a motion to approve the Sept treasurers report. Cindy 2nd.

Old Business: Council member needed

Painting on Church – the trim needs painting. Waiting for quote.

New Business: Nothing to report

Committee Reports

Pastor – Visits are up to date. PLC was in Wisconsin at Lutherdale was good. The speaker encouraged interactive experiences during services. Smells, sights, things people can feel, sounds etc.. Confirmation at the end of the month looks good. Making plans for youth group to follow it up. Combined church service went well at St. Mark's.

Finance Renee – Nothing to report.

Worship n Music -Trish – They meet in Nov.

Hospitality – Hailey – Per Renee: Fall supper will be on Nov 2nd. Renee to check to see if we can change it to Nov 16th so we have more time to advertise on chamber board. Lisa will be announcing in church on Sunday. This is our annual fundraiser. Renee makes a motion to create a Venmo account. Pastor 2nd. Motion passes. Do a bake sale where people can donate what they want for a plate of cookies etc..

Fellowship – Nothing to report

Education – Renee – nothing to report.

Memorial - Cindy- check with Merla to maybe have a meeting.

Property – Steve – nothing to report. Look at candelabra.

Polo Council of Churches – Christmas boxes. Will accept donation money, 20.00/each for a family.

Liaison – Trish – next meeting is Nov 17th

Next Meeting

Wednesday Nov 13th, 2024 7pm

Closing prayer - Pastor Scott

Vote to Adjourn Meeting – Trish makes a motion to adjourn. Renee 2nd. Meeting done at 7:59 pm

**Polo Community Council of Churches
September 2024 Minutes**

Vice president David Poole called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm on September 24, 2024 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Those in attendance were: Sharon Miller, Marilyn Schwartz, Marla Buskohl, Suzanne Sorenson, Suzanne Stout, Don Hay, Merla Brooks, John Barry, and Scott Ralston.

Pastor Suzanne Stout led devotions of readings from Joyce Rupp.

The secretary's report was accepted as read.

Treasurer's report was presented with a balance of \$3716.01.

Sharon Miller reports that Second Hand Rose has been experiencing slow sales. They are donating baby clothes to Brad Long to distribute in Honduras during his mission trip. As always, the donation jar money is donated to the Polo Food Pantry.

Food pantry has been extremely busy and are in need of money, meats, etc. The food truck delivery included potatoes, onions and milk.

The Christmas basket project was discussed and a vote to change the process was unanimous. All churches are asked to donate money to cover the \$20 cost of a box. Kathy Wragg will order the boxes through the Polo Food Pantry and distribution will be from there as well. PCCC members are asked to help unload the truck on distribution day. Dates will be forthcoming.

Pennies From Heaven: donations are needed from area churches as this program is being utilized by many in need. Call Kathy Wragg at the Polo Senior Community Center if you have a request. 815-946-3818.

Next meeting will be at Crossroads Church on November 26 at 6:00 pm.

Marla Buskohl--Secretary

October Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
6,304	7,122	-818

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

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If you are missing a pan or dish that you brought food to St. Mark's in, there are several in the basement small kitchen. Help us find their owners!

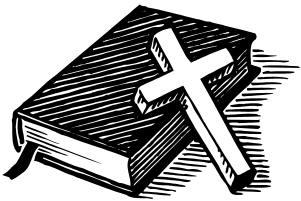
Thank you!

- ~ Thank you to Merla Brooks for leading worship when Pastor was sick.
- ~ Thank you to Lisa Hinrichs for hooking up her laptop to play Pastor's sermon when Pastor was sick.
- ~ Thank you to all who helped with the services and luncheon for the funeral of Sibyl Acker.
- ~ Thank you to all who donated items and/or helped serve at the Community Meal.
- ~ Thank you to all who helped in any way for the Fall Supper & Bake Sale. Helpers, servers, donations and those who attended all made this event successful! St. Mark's was able to raise over \$2000. Special thank you to Lisa Hinrichs for leading this event and always doing a wonderful job!

"To all who contributed to Sibyl's funeral luncheon, Thank you so much for providing the luncheon after Sibyl's funeral. The homemade salads and casseroles were particularly delicious! While Sibyl and Larry's funerals were 7 years apart, you made us feel like we were coming home into the warm embrace of St. Mark's, which was such a comfort.

With Gratitude, The Sibyl Acker Family"

Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.



Prayers for those in need of healing: Kent Anders, Ron Bardell, Darlene Barnhart, Karen Fetterman, Lorin Gatz, Shelby Hose, Pat McPherson, Mary Ann Olson and Laurel Smith. **Those in care facilities:** Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Beulah Nelson and Marian Schnulle. **Those in Military service:** Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle, Travis Roop and Nathaniel Yingling.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3	Leo Reinstra	18	Samantha Krenc
4	Colton McBride	20	Brittney Karrow
5	Larry Slager	23	Rita Dauphin
6	Diane Rasmussen		Phyllis Houck
7	Matt Morrison	24	Maddex Woodin
8	Trish Patterson	25	Cindy Bauling
9	Bryce Haye		John Ennenga
11	Elaine Sweet	27	Melissa Johnson
12	Brad Sorenson		Linnea Thorngren
	Wrenley Dawson	28	Jessica Sullivan
13	Janet Garkey	30	Rylyn Karrow
	Julia Hackbarth		
	Carol Suits		
	Ashley Ambeau		

Anniversaries

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



Congratulations Confirmands!

Front Row L to R: Kendall Boyle, Samantha Gray, Kaci Hall, Lexi Christen, Britt Thorngren, Reese Mekeel

**Back Row L to R: Cooper Johnson (Forreston), Cooper Dawson, Tian Escobar, Eli Lotz, Dom Escobar and Leighton Byers (Forreston, not pictured).
Pastor Scott Ralston**





CHRIST *the savior*
is **BORN**

